



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of California*

501 I Street, Suite 10-100
Sacramento, California 95814

916/554-2700
Fax 916/554-2900

For Immediate Release
April 8, 2003

**FORMER CREDIT MANAGER DEFRAUDS
SACRAMENTO COMPANY OUT OF \$1.8 MILLION**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today the filing of a criminal information against CHRISTOPHER CALLON, 43, of Antelope, California, on charges of mail fraud and money laundering.

CHRISTOPHER CALLON was the credit manager for Western Air System and Control, Inc., a company located at 903 North Market Boulevard, in Sacramento. The information charges that during the period September 1998 through October 2002, CALLON established a fictitious bank account at West America Bank in the name of the company. CALLON would take some of the checks that were sent to the company, deposit them in an account that he established at West America Bank, and then convert all of the money to his own use. During this period of time, CALLON defrauded Western Air System and Control, Inc., out of approximately \$1.8 million.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Daniel S. Linhardt, who is prosecuting the case, if convicted, CHRISTOPHER CALLON faces a maximum of 5 years imprisonment on the mail fraud count and 10 years on the money laundering count for a total of 15 years, plus a \$250,000 fine. CALLON will be arraigned on the information April 29, 2003 at 2:00 p.m.

The charges in the information are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case was investigated by agents of the FBI, and the Internal Revenue Service.

A copy of this press release may be found on the U.S. Attorney's Office's website at:
http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae/text_version/text_pressindex.htm.

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